



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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02/19/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013 MEETING
 Approved March 14, 2013

Present: Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, David Haas, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel.

Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Adam Chapdelaine, Dan Dunn, William Hayner, Gordon Jamieson, John Leone, Cheryl Miller, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton, Angela Olszewski, Tarajee Pass.

- The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and ended at 9:40 p.m.
- Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were accepted with a few corrections.
- Census Survey: About 3800 replies have been received to date, only 311 of them on-line. Among the sign-ups for Vision 2020, many did not indicate a task group; they are getting a follow-up email asking them to specify their interest(s). Others indicated some very specific interest, e.g. housing; they were referred to the appropriate body, e.g. HCA. Many indicated ignorance of the Town goals. People who signed up for task groups which currently have no chair will be asked to help set up the volunteer opportunities clearing house.
- The Standing Committee is requesting \$4300 in CDBG funds for next year's survey, after several years of not getting any money and using up leftover funds. Possible topics suggested for the next survey include questions on housing, public art in public spaces, and open space (the next update of the Open Space Plan is due in 2014). The Planning Department will do a separate survey in the fall for the Master Plan.
- Funding for Vision 2020: The only funding we had was from CDBG, which now has stricter rules.* Some task group chairs have been paying for printing out of their own pockets. Maybe we need some fundraising events. The Reservoir Committee raised hundreds by publishing a calendar this year and suggested that one could be published each year with different committees taking turns.
- Future of Vision 2020: Brucie, Mary, and Joey met with the Town Manager and Town Planner to discuss long-term plans. The Town Manager suggested a visioning meeting with a professional facilitator, or do we need only a discussion such as how we are organized, how we are connected to the Town, where we fit if not under Planning. A future meeting is planned to develop this idea.
- Task Group reports:
 - The EcoFest (March 23) being planned by several groups will focus on shrinking one's carbon footprint; also use of open spaces and the impact of such use on the environment.
 - Environment – Sustainable Arlington is generally in favor of the Mass. Ave. project, which will have another public hearing on Feb. 26, and is continuing working with the Town's Energy Group.
 - Environment – Spy Pond has been working on the warrant article for the water bodies fund and the annual fertilizer flyer.
 - Culture & Recreation -- Public Art has filed a warrant article to create a fund in which money can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next. It is planning two programs: Films of George Plimpton, presented by his brother Oakes, on March 22, and another "Chairful" event.
 - Diversity has begun a series of "Conversations" for discussion of questions such as "Do you feel welcome in Arlington?" People who signed up for the Diversity task group will be invited. True Story Theater (based in Arlington), which improvises skits based on stories from the audience, will use material from these discussions for a performance.
- * HUD requires "that all funded programs must principally benefit persons of low or moderate income, and in the prevention of slums and blight, or meet other urgent community development needs that pose a threat to the health or welfare of the community."